



# Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Delaware's 2007 Plan identified 459 SGCN. The criteria and SGCN list were reviewed and updated resulting in a draft list of 657 SGCN with a net addition of 198 species.

## Decision Tree for Screening GCN Species from GCN Candidate List

1. Is the species native or thought to be native to Delaware or adjacent waters (including North American native species whose range has expanded naturally into the region)?  
YES: continue NO: not SGCN
2. Is Delaware within, or presumed to be within, the species' regularly occurring range, now or at some time in the past? Accidental and vagrant species should not be included, even if there are multiple records. Disjunct populations should be considered part of the regularly occurring range.  
YES: continue NO: not SGCN
3. If the species is included solely on the basis of a breeding season S-rank, does that rank reflect only sporadic, accidental breeding attempts well outside the usual breeding range of the species? (Any evidence of continued breeding or establishment of a breeding population should be considered.)  
YES: not SGCN NO: continue
4. If the species is considered extirpated from Delaware (SX), is there some possibility that the species could either recolonize naturally or be intentionally reintroduced in the foreseeable future?  
Yes: SGCN No: Not SGCN
5. Is the species a rare or casual migrant or rare seasonal visitor in Delaware such that threats and conservation actions present /conducted over the next 10 years in Delaware are unlikely to have a measurable impact on the species' population?  
YES: not SGCN NO: continue
6. Are there potential, feasible conservation actions that could be implemented within Delaware that may result in a measurable impact on the species' population? (Including reintroduction)  
YES: SGCN NO: not SGCN



Big Brown Bat, USFWS

## SGCN Criteria for Delaware Wildlife Action Plan 2015

Species will be considered a candidate for GCN status if they occur in Delaware AND they meet any one of the following criteria:

1. **Federally Endangered, Threatened, or Candidate status**
2. **State Legal Status of Endangered**
3. **Global Rank of G3 or higher**
4. **S-Rank of S2 or higher, SH, or SX for Breeding, Nonbreeding or Both**
5. **Regional Species of Greatest Conservation Need (RSGCN) for the Northeast**
6. **IUCN Red List Status of Near Threatened or higher**
7. **Taxon-specific Conservation Concern. Included at the following levels on the following taxon-specific plans:**

### *Birds:*

Mid-Atlantic Bird Conservation Initiative BCR 29 or BCR 30 "Highest Priority" and "High Priority" Species

### *Fishes and Marine Invertebrates:*

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) NMFS Species of Concern (NOAA 2010) American Fisheries Society (2001) Marine, Estuarine, and Diadromous Fish Stocks at Risk of Extinction in North America (Exclusive of Pacific Salmonids)

American Fisheries Society (2008) List of imperiled North American freshwater and diadromous fishes

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Managed Species

### *Reptiles & Amphibians:*

NEPARC (2010) Northeast Amphibian and Reptile Species of Regional Responsibility and Conservation Concern

### *Odonates:*

White, et al. (2014) A conservation status assessment of Odonata for the northeastern United States. New York Natural Heritage Program, Albany, NY.

8. **Endemic, Near-Endemic, or Disjunct.** (Species which, according to the best available data are endemic or near-endemic to the Delmarva Peninsula, or whose Delaware populations are widely disjunct: 200+ miles from the species main range of distribution)

### **9. Scientific Data and Expert Consensus**

Taxa that do not meet other SGCN criteria that can be demonstrated by scientific evidence or expert consensus to have at least a moderate risk of extinction in the future, or that have especially significant Delaware populations. This may include taxa that are data deficient, have demonstrated population declines, rarity or limited habitat requirements, need direct species management in order to persist, have at-risk populations, or are likely to be significantly negatively impacted by climate change or other specific and imminent threats.